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# THE OPINION



Volume 26, No. 13

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT BUFFALO SCHOOL OF LAW

April 7, 1986

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ Special Election Issue ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

## New SBA Executive Board to Be Chosen in First-Ever Spring Election Wed. and Thurs.

by Peter Scribner

The Student Bar Association is holding its first ever spring elections for officers on Wednesday and Thursday of this week. Eleven students are competing for the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The candidates will meet in an election eve debate at 5:00 p.m. Tuesday afternoon in Room 106. The polls will be open in front of the library from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday. All first and second year students are eligible to vote for officers. See pages 2 and 3 of this special election edition for personal statements from each candidate.

The SBA has also proposed five sets of changes to its constitution. Each proposal must be ratified by a majority of the student body in a referendum to be held along with the elections of SBA officers. Graduating seniors, along with other law students, will be eligible to vote in this constitutional referendum.

The exact text of each proposal, along with the text of the current constitution, is printed on page 6 in this issue. The following is a summary of each proposal and the reasons for the change.

The first proposal involves the selection of SBA committee members. To a large extent, the current constitutional procedures for choosing committee members are not being followed in practice and are considered to be overly complicated. The proposal revises Article V, which is the article on committees, to reflect more accurately current practices.

The proposal calls for an Appointments Committee, to be chaired by the SBA President and to include any SBA Board members who want to participate, to interview potential committee members soon after the fall election of class directors. The Appointments Committee will recommend its choices to the whole SBA Board, which will make the final decision. The SBA may also terminate any appointment by a 2/3 vote.

The second proposal creates a Constitutional article allowing constitutional amendments. For some unknown reason, the current constitution does not provide an amending process. The proposal would allow amendments to be proposed by 2/3 of the SBA Board and ratified by a majority of the student body.

The third proposal deals with the temporary replacement of SBA officers who are temporarily absent. This proposal arises from the situation last fall, when Vice President Todd Bullard was temporarily absent due to a heart attack, and the constitution was unclear as to how he could be temporarily replaced.

Under the proposal, the SBA Board may temporarily replace an officer who is temporarily or permanently absent. The replacement would serve until the absent officer returns or until a new officer is elected. Any officer or class director who is absent for more than four weeks, or misses four consecutive SBA meetings, will have his or her office declared permanently vacant. In the case of a permanent vacancy, a new election will be held unless there are less than seven weeks before the next scheduled election.

The fourth proposal slightly revises the powers of the Board of Directors. The current constitution states that disciplinary actions may be taken against SBA members according to "Article VII of this Constitution." Unfortunately, there is no Article VII, although ByLaw VII

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### ELECTION CALENDAR

**Tuesday, April 8**  
Candidate Debates  
5:00 p.m. — Room 106

**Wednesday, April 9 & Thursday, April 10**  
Election of SBA Officers  
(1st & 2nd year students eligible to vote)  
SBA Constitutional Referendum  
(all students eligible to vote)  
POLLS OPEN IN FRONT OF LIBRARY

★★★★★★★★★★★★

does refer to discipline actions. The proposal simply states that disciplinary actions, including the suspension or expulsion of members, may be taken according to the Constitution, the By-Laws, and Roberts Rules of Order. Technically speaking, this would allow a majority of the Board of Directors to expel an SBA officer or director, since the constitution requires only a majority of the SBA Board to pass a by-law.

The last proposal simplifies the powers of the President and

Vice President. The current Constitution requires those officers to sit as members of some committees that no longer exist. The proposal eliminates the non-existing committees, and also state that the powers of the President and Vice President shall not be limited by the basic provisions of the constitution. The idea behind this proposal is that future SBA Boards and officers may custom fashion the specific duties of these two positions depending upon the circumstances at the time.

## Presidential Candidates Speak With The Opinion

by Peter Scribner

(Editor's note: In order to help student voters choose from among the four candidates for SBA President, The Opinion interviewed each at length. The following is an analysis of those interviews.)

Who they are:

Vicky Argento, a second year student, comes from the small village of East Rochester in Monroe County, a town where "everybody knows everybody." She attended nearby St. John Fisher College, and plans to return after graduation, and work in a small firm or as a solo practitioner. She currently serves as treasurer of the Association of Women Law Students and as an SBA class director. She is on the Student Lounge Committee and the Academic Dishonesty Investigatory Panel.

Todd Bullard comes from Henrietta, another town in the Rochester area. He attended Allegheny College in Pennsylvania, where he served in student government for three years. As a law student, Todd has participated in BLSA and the Prisoner's Task Force. He was an SBA class director during his first year, and he served as Parliamentarian and Chairman of the Rules Committee.

He was elected SBA Vice President this year. He worked in the State Attorney General's Office last summer and plans to work with a private Syracuse firm this summer. Although he is unsure whether he will pursue a career in the private or public sector after graduation, he thinks he might be interested in politics down the line.

Bullard missed much of the second half of the fall semester due to a heart attack. "I feel great now; my health is not a problem." When asked if being SBA President might prove to be too stressful he replied "Not at all. I enjoy student government, and something you enjoy is not stressful."

Brett Gilbert originally comes from New Jersey, although he now considers Buffalo his home. He received both his undergraduate and masters degree in Philosophy at the University of Toledo. In between, he spent time in Boston as an astrophysics student, in Ghana as a Peace Corps volunteer, and in New Jersey as a high school teacher. He currently teaches in the UB Philosophy Department along with attending law school. He is on the editorial board of *In The Public Interest*, and is a member of the Gay Law Students Association. Due to

his teaching commitments, he has not previously run for SBA office, but he will not be teaching next year. Last summer he worked in a farm workers program in Ohio, and is thinking of either teaching or working with a legal services or a legal aid organization after graduation.

John Williams, a first year student from the eastern end of Long Island, was an undergraduate at SUNY Purchase where he was president of the student government for two years. He was elected an SBA director last fall, and has served on the Rules Committee and the Budget Program and Review Committee. He is also co-business manager of the year book. After law school he is thinking of working in business or perhaps the media, but he is "definitely not thinking of becoming just another lawyer."

Why they are running.

Gilbert: "I've been a talker these last two years. Now I want to be a doer, not a talker: put up or shut up. We have to get students excited in order to get things done, and that takes enthusiasm. A lot of students know that I am enthusiastic, even though it may take a few years to get things going. Other candidates don't seem enthusiastic enough. In any case,

even if I don't win, it's been fun!"

Williams: "As president of my undergraduate student government, I fought for student rights. I love to get involved. Some others may be intimidated: I'm not that way. We may not get all we want, but at least students will be taken into consideration when decisions are made. I think I'm the best one for the job. If I thought another candidate was better, I'd step down."

Argento: "I've complained a lot about this law school; now I want to do something about it. I care about people and am very good about working with others. If elected, I will keep bugging the administration to get the things we want, and promise to work very hard."

Bullard: "I don't need this for my resume. SBA has fallen short of its potential over the last two years, and I want to bring it back up. I have leadership skills of organization, determination and insight. I also have a practical approach to the limits and the possibilities of what SBA can do. I sincerely believe that I am the most qualified. When I had my heart attack last semester, the response of other students showed what a special place this is. I would

like to give something back."

Where they stand:

Williams bases much of his proposed program for the SBA on his experiences in undergraduate student government. For example, at SUNY Purchase, an Educational Policy Committee of 12 faculty members and three students made most of the major academic decisions. He sees a similar Law School Academic Committee operating here, with perhaps 50% student membership. This committee would decide on such things as course offerings and scheduling and anything that involves academic policy, including for example library

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# SBA Executive Board Candidates

☆ ★ ☆ ★ ☆ President ☆ ★ ☆ ★ ☆



Photo Credit: Paul Hammond

## Vicky Argento, President

I am a second-year law student. On April 9 and 10 it will be up to you to decide who is the best person to fill the office of president of the SBA. This is my chance to tell you why I think that person is me.

Although there are many characteristics a good president should possess, I feel that there are two things which are critical. The first essential element is that you be able to devote the time necessary to fully execute the duties of president. The second essential element is that you have the capacity to work well with other people.

I do not have any other commitments (except for school of course) which would prevent me from focusing my full attention on the SBA. I will not be working during the school year next year and I will not be involved in any other organizations if I am elected president. It is important to know what you are getting yourself into when you run for office. Because I have served as a second-year director of the SBA this year, I have a good understanding of how much of a time commitment the job of president entails. Thus, I am not making an uninformed judgment when I say that I can and will be able to devote the time necessary to be a strong president.

In order for the president of the SBA to perform efficiently, he or she has to be able to work well with all different types of people. It is imperative that the president possess this quality to a high degree because it is often the situation where you will be working with people not out of choice but rather out of necessity. No matter what other qualifications a person may have, if you cannot find a way to get along with people you may not agree with then nothing will get done. As president, I think that I would be able to deal with any situation which might arise because I am always ready to listen; I respect other people's views; and I am willing to negotiate. Getting along is the key to an efficiently run organization.

As a second-year director, I have worked well with the present executive board and the other class directors. Therefore, I feel that I am the candidate most able to benefit from having the elections in the spring. Because I am ready to spend the time necessary to learn the responsibilities of the office this year and because I can work well with the current SBA President, Lori Cohen, I can take full advantage of her expertise and be well prepared to assume the duties of president at the end of this semester.

When you decide to run for

an elected office you must have a clear idea of what qualities you possess which will enable you to do the job better than anyone else. Because I can devote the necessary time both this semester and next year, and because I have the capacity to work well with others, I feel that I am the best choice for SBA president.

I am fully aware of the problems that plague the law school: the need for a permanent dean, late grades, undergraduates in the library, heavy traffic through O'Brian Hall, and the shortage of parking spaces. I cannot and will not promise that I have an easy solution to all these problems. I am very much against making a lot of unrealistic promises just in order to get elected. There is one promise that I can make because I know I can keep it. I promise that if you see fit to elect me president of the SBA, I will do my very best to solve the problems that concern all of us and to make this law school a better place.



Photo Credit: Victor Siclari

## John J. Williams, President

I want to be president of the SBA because I'm qualified to do the job, and believe I can make the necessary changes and improvements of the SBA. For the past year I have been a first-year director and through this experience I'm familiar with the issues concerning the SBA. I believe that the law school is suffering from an identity crisis. We don't know whether to believe we are ranked 19 or 39; we don't know if the Dean is acting Dean to win an academy award or to try to guide this law school through these troubled times. Sometimes I get the feeling that maybe we are just an extension of the UB undergrad circle, only our courses exceed the traditional 400 level of most senior year undergrad courses. This is evident through the presence of undergrads in the library and the halls of Grand Central Station/O'Brian Hall. Many of us don't know why the law school bookstore only takes checks or money orders, which can be a pain sometimes. Some students are not aware of what the SBA is or does. Many students don't know how the law school is run. As president I will try to provide answers to these questions.

For this law school to be viewed in a more competitive light such as other state law schools, (e.g. University of Michigan or Virginia), the initial thrust has to come from a joint effort of students, faculty, and administrators. We as a team have to start trying to achieve a more defined sense of identity and autonomy by making the UB administration realize that we

do exist and our needs have to be catered to. This year the SBA has tried unsuccessfully to get a meeting with the administration to voice various concerns but they haven't been able to fit us into their busy schedules. If I were president I would bring the SBA to their office and wait until they could fit us into their schedules. All the other professional schools have a true sense of identity. Why not us?

The SBA has to look to the outside for help. We need to rally our alumni around us. More importantly we have to start lobbying the state legislature and the SUNY board of trustees. I refuse to believe that the State of New York will let its only public law school dwindle away and become second rate. The state is not aware of students' concerns about the present as well as the future of the law school. The burden rests upon the SBA to let them know our concerns. We have to lobby the Buffalo area state senators and assembly persons. We have helped to put some of these people into office; now it's their turn to work for us. Many of these Western New York State officials are lawyers with strong contacts with the law school. The SBA could, and should, effectively initiate and organize such a lobbying campaign.

Internally, the SBA has to strive for more recognition and respect from our own administration and faculty. We should have more input into the budget process. For instance, the law students themselves should be involved in the budget decision process in areas directly affecting their interest, including the CDO and the monies devoted to teaching and research. Students are the ones who know best where there is poor lighting and we should have some input into what kind of towels we want to dry our hands on in the bathrooms. Have any of you ever actually seen an attendant change those dirty cloth towels in the bathroom?

Students tend to think that the SBA is not doing enough. As president I would like to try to work with *The Opinion* to establish a column in which students submit suggestions for the SBA. The bottom line is that the SBA is a student-run organization and the goals of the SBA have to come from the student body. Contrary to popular belief we don't just throw parties. We have to establish an academic committee to be a counterpart to our social committee. Through the committee the student body could bring up academic concerns that need to be addressed at this school.

I have the experience of three years as a student body president at SUNY Purchase. I've successfully lobbied in Albany against budget cuts and have served on university-wide budget committees. I'll be a student of this law school for two more years. If elected president, I will set long range goals that I will continue to work on even if I'm not in that position the following year. The bottom line is that I need your vote to make a difference!



Photo Credit: Paul Hammond

## Brett Gilbert, President

My motivation for asking you to elect me president is twofold. First, I would like to continue the strong leadership which Lori Cohen has exhibited this past year. Lori has done a great job and we need a new president who can equal her achievements. I believe I can do that. Second, I would like to apply my experience and concern for student issues so as to effect a few changes here at our law school. After speaking to many students, I believe it can be said that most of us are in agreement about a few key concerns.

My qualifications for the office of president are these. I am a second-year law student who is committed to advancing those issues which will help make ours a better law school. I have spoken out frequently on many issues and have always welcomed the feedback of those who disagree with me. This continual dialogue between myself and my fellow students has helped me stay on top of those issues which matter to law students. I have also been able to develop relationships with my fellow students which are based on candor and honesty. You will always get the truth from me. My experience as a teacher, at the high school and college level, both in the United States and in Ghana, Africa, allows me to appreciate the concerns of our faculty so as to be more able to respond to these concerns. I believe I am qualified to be president of SBA because I believe I have those qualities which make for an effective representative of the collective will of the student body.

There are several issues which I find to be on the minds of many law students. They are the kind of issues which SBA can have a significant influence to affect. The first issue concerns the lack of professional responsibility which many law professors exhibit when they do not submit student grades in a reasonable and timely fashion. When students are forced to wait months for their grades, it can only increase the apathy and dislike of law school. This problem is especially aggravating to graduating seniors and those who need completed transcripts for job applications. It is no wonder that the treatment of Legal Ethics is slighted at this law school when so many of our own professors seem unaware of their own ethical and professional responsibilities. As SBA president, I will act as a conduit through which the students can express their thanks to professors who take this concern of students seriously. However, those professors who seriously

delay the posting of student grades should be reminded of the professional responsibilities of faculty members.

A second issue I would address as SBA president concerns the lack of word-processors in the law school library. Most of us are aware of the word-processors which are available to members of the *Buffalo Law Review*. I do not doubt the need of the *Law Review* to have such machines. In fact, I think it is a great idea. Most first-rate law schools are equipped with word-processors for student use. As SBA president, I will work with the administration to acquire perhaps three or four word-processing units which would be available to all law students, whether it be for Research and Writing or the Moot Court competition. Our law school should join the ranks of other major law schools by providing this valuable service to its student population.

There are of course other issues I would address as SBA president. I would continue and expand the SBA social activities which were so popular this past year, such as the "3-Day Escape Buffalo Weekend" and the parties at Pine Lodge. I would also work with the administration to establish on-going student input as to second and third year course offerings, perhaps through a permanent committee. Finally, I would seek student support to establish an SBA speakers committee that would sponsor well-known speakers which smaller student organizations cannot afford.

In closing, I offer the law school student community enthusiastic and assertive leadership. My commitment to making our law school a better place to learn is strong; my methods of achieving this goal will depend upon honesty and strength through unity. The best thing about our law school is its students, and it is only because of you that I want to become SBA president. As I have said before at other moments: with your help we will win. Please vote on April 9 and 10.



Photo Credit: Paul Hammond

## H. Todd Bullard, President

I am running for president of SBA because I sincerely believe that I am suited for the position both by temperament and experience. It disturbs me that our student body has short-changed itself by failing to exercise more student input in the shaping of school policy. We law students should realize our potential to make things happen for the better at this school.

I strongly desire to see a more informed and active student body. A vote for me is a vote for balance, strong advocacy and leadership.



# Outline Qualifications and Goals



## Vice President

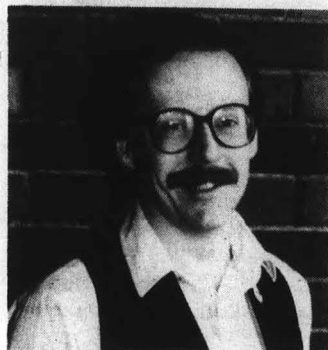


Photo Credit: Victor Siclari

### Jack Luzier, Vice-President

A lot of my fellow students already know me and are at least somewhat familiar with my background. For those who aren't or who may wish to know more, a brief synopsis.

I was born and raised in Western New York and have lived in Buffalo for the past 11 years. I went to school at Buffalo State, graduated with a degree in exceptional education, and was employed for four-and-a-half years as a special education teacher. Along with teaching, I was very active in local social change efforts, particularly with the Sierra Club Radioactive Waste Campaign, where I helped to organize numerous special events in addition to working on community out-

reach and education.

From my teaching and organizing experiences, I have acquired many skills which can be valuable for an active, effective SBA vice-president. The ability to accept and delegate responsibility, to create positive personal and professional relationships, and to develop thorough, creative strategies for dealing with challenges are a few of the strengths I have to offer.

In law school, I have contributed my time and talents in a variety of ways. During my tenure as vice-president of the Environmental Law Society, I helped turn an organization which was essentially dormant into a highly visible, active group. I worked on last year's commencement and orientation, and I am presently working with Brian Bornstein on organizing this year's Race Judicata (see article in this issue). Now I want to do more.

I believe that our law school is at an important juncture. The perceived decline in the quality and status of our school, the eroding morale of the student body, and the threat of even more traffic on this campus are just a few of the problems that need everyone's attention, but

particularly the SBA board and its executives.

I do not promise solutions to all of these problems, nor do I claim to have all the answers. But I believe I have the skills, energy and desire to make this a better place for all of us. We all have a duty to be aware and active in creating solutions to what we see as problems, I will promise to keep regular, posted hours at the office and would expect all SBA executives and directors to do the same. We cannot be accountable if we aren't accessible.

In the past we have seen too much of an "us against them" attitude, whether it is toward individuals, the administration or the university and community at large. This attitude only inhibits the implementation of positive answers to our problems. I am willing to listen to the views and ideas of others and fashion collective solutions.

I could say more but we lawyers tend to talk too much as it is. The proof is in the person. The next step is for each of you to vote. But it should be far from the last step. Get involved. Thank you for your time.



Photo Credit: Victor Siclari

### Brian Bornstein, Vice-President

I once asked a friend of mine, late President Theodore Roosevelt, what qualities he looks for in an SBA officer, and he stated: "It is not the critic who counts, not the SBA officer who points out how the strong man/woman stumbled, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the SBA officer who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs and

comes short again and again; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, and spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement; and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat."

If elected SBA vice-president, I pledge to follow the words of Roosevelt. I will give it my all and not back down from any challenges. I will use my experience as an SBA class director, co-social chairman, and student lounge committeeman to pursue concerns of the student body such as the dean search, course selection, late grades, lack of community feeling, and the need for a student lounge. Also, one needs not to forget the broader goals which are to maintain and continue to improve the academic and social excellence at the school.



## Secretary



Photo Credit: Paul Hammond

### Karen Buckley, Secretary

As a second year director, I have had an opportunity to be active in SBA and represent my classmates. For my third year, I would like to continue my involvement as secretary. I feel my experience, commitment and willingness to work hard would serve me well in this capacity.

The position of SBA Secretary requires more than just attending meetings. Extra hours are called for to ensure that the administration and the student body are fully informed of the issues and concerns addressed by the board, as well as publicizing SBA-sponsored activities. I am willing to put in the extra time and effort to ensure these objectives are accomplished.

The present SBA Executive Board has been working to facilitate communication between the law school administration and students, as well as attempting to amplify the law students' voice in decisions on the University level. This goal is certainly an important and laudable one; however, more needs to be done so that law students have input into decisions regarding John Lord O'Brian—both academically and aesthetically, I will make it a priority to see that the efforts of the present SBA Executive

Board do not go to waste, but are continued until we see some tangible results.

The SBA is an organization that can and does add to our experience at UB Law School. But, this does not mean that we should not work to make it a better organization. I am willing to work hard toward this end, and welcome any comments, suggestions and advice on how SBA can better serve the needs and concerns of the law students. I would appreciate your vote on April 9 and 10.

Thank you for your consideration.



Photo Credit: Victor Siclari

### Nancy Steiger, Secretary

There are far too many complaints among my fellow classmates regarding the ineffectiveness of the Student Bar Association. One of the more prevalent complaints includes the accusation that the SBA is nothing more than a social organization responsible for the implementation of parties. Other complaints include the suggestion of phasing out the SBA completely.

Admittedly, the SBA has implemented a large number of the parties that occurred this year. The turnout however, was quite impressive and consisted of a cross section of the Law School's student body. Obviously, some of Buffalo's law students don't take exception to SBA's parties.

SBA serves more functions than merely planning parties. The SBA is the only voice of the law students. It is the only bridge between students and faculty. It is important for us to have this voice because without it we are rendered mute.

There are many changes that need to occur within the law school: our reputation needs to be upgraded, we need to gain respect from the University of Buffalo, we need better facilities. The SBA is the only tool we can utilize to implement these changes. In order to accomplish this, the channels between the students and faculty must always remain open. As secretary, some of my plans to accomplish this would be a monthly newsletter to both students and faculty in an effort to keep communication open, and a suggestion box in the mailroom where students can voice their complaints.

Although the secretary does not have much political power, it still is an important position. Many of my views will influence the Student Bar Association. I chose to run for secretary for that reason. I want my voice heard, I want the opportunity to accomplish changes within the school. Furthermore, I am organized and responsible enough to fulfill the requirements of the position. Even more important; as a first-year director I became familiar with the Student Bar Association. I know how it works and what it needs to run. I feel that it is important to have this knowledge in order to effectively serve on the executive board.

Finally, as a first-year student, I have two remaining years at Buffalo Law School. What better incentive than that for me to serve my school. I want to see changes implemented because I will be here to experience them!



## Treasurer



Photo Credit: Victor Siclari

### Susan Biniszkiewicz, Treasurer

First of all, let me say that I am aware that the office of treasurer requires a relatively heavy time commitment. So many people have warned me about that that I guess I must be either dedicated or stupid to seek the office (take your pick). Nevertheless, I think I'd be a good treasurer.

My qualifications for treasurer include the fact that I am a full-set bookkeeper and have a master's degree in systems management (something like an MBA). I am familiar with many different accounting systems and have set up some systems myself, so hopefully, it wouldn't take long for me to become familiar with the voucher

continued on page 5



Opinion file photo

### Cora Alsante, Treasurer

Because SBA represents the entire student body, it is important that its officers are responsive to their opinions and concerns.

As a first year law student, I realize the importance of taking an active role in student government, and enthusiastically working together with the rest

of the association to fulfill what should be its first and foremost duty: to adequately represent the needs and desires of the law students.

As a member of SBA, I would work towards strengthening a community atmosphere among the law students, achieving more responsive interaction between students and administrators, a better and more extensive course listing, and a closer relationship between students and their elected SBA representatives.

SBA requires everyone's support, cooperation, concern, and input to make it run effectively. Please provide your input by voting April 9th and 10th.

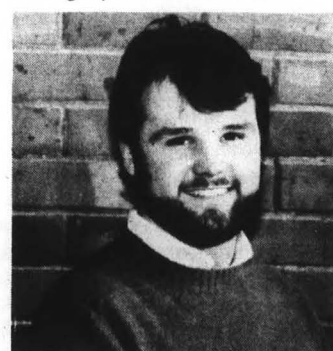


Photo Credit: Victor Siclari

### Terry Gilbride, Treasurer

Being a member of the finance committee this past year, I had an opportunity to work closely with this year's treasurer which enabled me to become acquainted with the responsibilities of the office. Like any other voting member of SBA, the treasurer is faced with the general issues that involve the law school community. Without setting forth an elaborate platform, as a member of SBA, I would like to accomplish the following:

- 1) Re-establishing the law school's identity within the University;
- 2) Urging the administration to replace former Dean Headrick as soon as possible with a qualified dean; and
- 3) Obtaining quality maintenance of O'Brian Hall.

The bulk of the treasurer's continued on page 5





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**Next Issue 4/23 — Deadline 4/14**

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## Editorial

### Endorsements: More Trouble Than They Are Worth

After considering the advantages and disadvantages, this newspaper, in accordance with its long-standing policy, has chosen not to endorse candidates in this week's SBA election. Furthermore, we question the wisdom of endorsements in law school elections. No one doubts the right of any student to state publicly his or her view on SBA candidates. But is it a good idea for school organizations or their officers to endorse SBA candidates officially?

This question arises because, in a letter published in the last edition of *The Opinion* (Vol. 26, No. 12), the three outgoing SBA Executive Board officers publicly endorsed one of the candidates running for SBA President. Apparently they got together on their own, and made their decision without consulting anyone else on SBA. How was this endorsement made? What characteristics were they looking for? How well did they know all the candidates? Why did they only endorse a candidate in the presidential race? Were they out to get someone? And how can anyone know whether the endorsement was based upon the cryptic reasons briefly stated in their letter, or was made for more private reasons?

Two issues are presented here. The narrow question is whether SBA Executive Board members should endorse candidates. On the one hand, an SBA executive officer is in a good position to determine the qualifications a candidate needs for that office. But such endorsements compromise the custom of executive neutrality. For example, the SBA President traditionally does not vote at SBA Board meetings, remaining instead a non-partisan presiding officer. But how can this officer remain non-partisan while actively participating in the most partisan event of the year?

Furthermore, won't endorsements work to the unfair disadvantage of those candidates who disagree with the current officers during the year? Will endorsements perpetuate the 'ins' at the expense of the 'outs'? And, if nothing else, doesn't the current controversy illustrate how endorsements can divert attention from the election itself, which is, after all, the main event?

The letter from nine SBA directors appearing opposite this column correctly sets out the problem. Spring elections are a new thing. Endorsements by SBA officials are likewise a novelty. The question is complicated and controversial. Therefore, the whole SBA Board ought to have debated the wisdom of endorsements before the current officers took their unilateral action.

The second, and broader, issue is the value of endorsements in general. The whole purpose of an endorsement is to put the prestige of the endorser behind one candidate, at the expense of the others. How can you, the voting student, judge the soundness of an endorsement? Quite simply, you can't. You shouldn't vote for or against a candidate simply because someone else says you ought to, even if that someone else is a person whose own abilities you may respect. There is no reason why you cannot make your own decision, based upon your personal contact with the candidates, the reams of information contained in this special election issue, and the candidate debates to be held the afternoon before the election. You don't need someone else's help. After all, the only endorsement that really counts is your own.



*The Opinion* will be holding its annual elections for Editorial Board positions on Thursday, April 10, at 5 p.m. in Room 724. All first and second year students are eligible to run.



## Letters to the Editor

### SBA "Endorsement" Attacked

Dear Editor:

This letter is written in response to the SBA presidential "endorsement" which appeared in the last (March 26th) edition of *The Opinion*.

First, we wish to make clear that such "endorsement" was the product of three members of the SBA Executive Board, and not of the 21-member Board of Directors. The Board of Directors had no knowledge that any such endorsement was to be made, and had absolutely no input into this procedure.

This year, with overwhelming approval of both the student body and Board of Directors, SBA Executive Office elections (President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary) were moved from early fall semester to late spring semester. The issue of the propriety of officeholder endorsements of candidates is thus a novel one. We believe the issue is of sufficient importance to merit discussion

by the Board as a whole, after receiving feedback from the law school community. The clandestine manner in which the three Executive Board members went about publishing their endorsement shows a willful and callous disregard on their part to the opinions of the law school student body and their elected representatives.

By the time this letter is read, the issue of SBA endorsements will likely have been aired and discussed fully at a weekly SBA meeting. We find it regrettable that the three individuals (Lori Cohen, Jerry O'Connor and Colleen Rogers) shunned the input of the Board of Directors and the law school community in both unilaterally choosing whether to make endorsements, and deciding whom to endorse in the upcoming election.

We trust that students will give the Executive Board's "en-

dorsement" the amount of credence which it deserves, and will make their own intelligent choices in this election.

Sincerely,

Sim Goldman  
Third Year Director

Leslie Stroth  
Third Year Director

Nancy Holtby  
Second Year Director

Karen Buckley  
Second Year Director

Susan Biniszkievicz  
First Year Director

Delano Robinson  
Third Year Director

Joe Jarzembek  
Third Year Director

Brian Bornstein  
Second Year Director

Lionel Rigler  
Third Year Director

Editor:

This letter is in reference to the recent "endorsement" of a presidential candidate by a majority of the current executive board.

Since I am running for an executive board position, I believe it may be viewed as improper for me to publicly take a stand on the propriety of that endorsement. I believe that other individuals in this school are addressing that issue.

I do not know if the present

executives plan on endorsing other candidates for executive positions. However, in anticipation of possible endorsements and at the risk of being presumptuous, I choose not to accept any public endorsement from these individuals.

In addition, the present executives have been involved in moderating the election "debates". Clearly, moderation of election debates should be by unbiased individuals. Any indi-

cation of public or private favoritism should disqualify such individual from involvement in supposed neutral events.

Therefore, in the interest of the integrity of the electoral process, the next election debate should be moderated by individuals who have not publicly endorsed any candidate. To the otherwise would be improper and unethical.

Jack Luzier

### A Solution to the Marcus Affair

Law school is an alienating experience. Dean Schlegel acknowledged this by citing (with genuine frustration) the prevalent individualistic form of education; he would rather see group learning. This is a valid but narrow acknowledgement of alienation, leading to the conclusion that we do not have an ideal educational system and thus students must reconcile themselves to an alienating process.

The idea that law school is an alienating experience illuminates the dynamics of the family law exam dilemma. Students sign up for a course but retain little control over the curriculum, the presentation, the professor's perception of what has or has not been understood by the class. Professor Marcus suggests that students could have consulted with her and expressed their dissatisfaction. But how affect the power relationships inherent in a lecture composed of roughly one eighth of the entire law school? Would students have gained control over curriculum, rate of assignment, content of class discussion, clarity of information conveyed, ratio of anecdote to doctrine, emotional tone of a critique of a dearly-held value? Surely, one may

argue, approaching the professor is a step. But this fails to account for the fact that students arrive at class already having experienced alienation. (I am not asking for approval, I am just asking for insight.)

The family law class may have been more frustrating than some others because of its size and the style of the professor and even the ambiguous thrust of the course. Possibly the class held a recalcitrant attitude towards new and radical ideas. Yet, doesn't the requirement that students had to reexamine their values bear crucially on their difficulty in tolerating the frustration that comes with trying to grasp a course?

I believe that it is a healthy response on the part of students to talk amongst themselves, to give each other support, to acknowledge the broad and ambiguous nature of the exam, to express frustration with the course as a whole. Where, then, does one draw the line between contact that lessens alienation and "cheating"? During any popular uprising, authorities are forced to push definitional lines to extremes unacceptable under other circumstances. The Supreme Court in *Blaisdale* held a

breach of contract not to be a breach under the circumstances of the Great Depression. The administration fears to put its own integrity in question by tolerating a breach of test-taking duty. Yet, as in *Blaisdale*, the breach is so widespread that the norm itself may be forced to conform. To some degree, students responded to a more-than-ordinarily-alienated situation by taking control into their own hands. It was suggested that each student, having heard a vague and possibly incorrect version of one or both of the exam questions, ask the professor whether it was alright to take the exam. How absurd! The student is expected to yield up every iota of power — even the personal decision as to whether their exposure to information makes them ineligible to be examined in a course. And paradoxically, those students with most knowledge of the exam questions would have been best suited to judge the value of their premature exposure. Since the questions were broad and vague, it is unlikely that a student would have disqualified him or herself by virtue of that exposure. It is only by reference to an external and alienated

continued on page 5

### Moynihan Accepts Invitation

We are finally getting somewhere with Commencement! Daniel Patrick Moynihan has accepted our invitation to speak at our Commencement. In addition, Prof. Joyce will be the Faculty Speaker and Walter Ramos the Student Speaker.

We are planning a picnic for

Commencement weekend and the party at the Marriott is coming along. We will be asking students to determine how many tickets they are going to need for the reception so that we may order enough food. Tickets will be \$2 each for the first five, and \$1 each for any additional tick-

ets.

Any first or second year students interested in being an usher on the day of Commencement should leave a note in my box (#720). Any assistance would be greatly appreciated. Let's enjoy!!

Gina M. Peca



## Candidate Interviews

hours and the CDO budget.

Williams also believes students should have "input into the initial law school budget decisions" and should be involved in lobbying efforts with the state legislature to insure the school is provided for. When asked if he thought it was realistic for law students to engage in such ambitious activities, he said "it is very realistic" and again cited his undergraduate experiences.

Brett Gilbert supports a long list of specific programs. For starters, he would like to see word processors installed in the law library, and student training in their use. "Other schools have walls lined with them." He believes that the late grading practices of some professors are "ethically inexcusable. I'm a [UB Philosophy] teacher, and I have to get my grades in in four days." He thinks that legal ethics could be taught in a more serious manner here. "We could start by using law school ethical considerations, such as cheating, as a starting point for discussions."

Like Williams, Gilbert believes that there should be more student input in course selection. Both propose a committee with 50% student membership. But while Williams' committee would be involved with all aspects of academic decisionmaking, Gilbert is proposing a more limited committee that would act as an advisory board to the faculty in the areas of course offerings and

selection. He would like to see a system developed where students who are interested in a seminar on a particular subject could petition the faculty to consider the request.

When asked if he supports the idea of SBA passing resolutions purporting to reflect student opinion on controversial political issues, he replied that such resolutions would have much greater impact if they were passed by the student body in a referendum. "The very act of holding a referendum is a newsworthy event", and as an example he pointed out the Brown University student referendum on nuclear weapons.

Todd Bullard is mostly concerned with the internal operation of the SBA, and its relationship to student organizations and the student body. He believes that as Vice President this year he received poor treatment from other SBA officers, especially from President Lori Cohen, whom he called "vindictive." He is especially upset that the other officers secretly got together and agreed to endorse another presidential candidate, and he does not attempt to conceal his bitterness. But he believes he would avoid such problems next year.

"Our biggest problem is lack of communication, both within the SBA and within the student body." He believes the key is better publicity, and proposes that SBA set up a communications committee. He also thinks

the Secretary's job could be enhanced to improve publicity and to help keep the executive board in touch with each other and with other SBA directors.

As the current Vice President, he thinks that the position should be expanded. "My Vice President will assist me in dealing with the Law School and University Administration." He also sees the Vice President maintaining contact with other university student governments and organizations, as well as engaging in his own or her own "pet projects."

Bullard would like to see SBA meet only once every two weeks, rather than weekly as is now the case. The time in between could be used for such things as a proposed Organizational Caucus, where representatives of all law school student organizations could meet monthly and coordinate activities and contributions. He would like to "avoid back stabbing between organizations" which he sees happening now, especially in the budget process. He would also like to see better orientation for newly elected SBA directors. "My whole theme is more organization and more unity."

Bullard also proposes to hold formal Student/Faculty panel discussions or forums, where students could voice concerns to faculty members. "A student moderator would direct comments into positive areas." He believes students should "continue to agitate for a permanent

dean, and not acquiesce to the plan for an interim dean." And in general, he hopes students would get more involved in law school concerns. "I would want to see Schlegel's appointment book filled with students wanting to see him."

Vicky Argento's biggest concern, like Bullard's, is lack of communication. "People don't know what's going on." She would want to speak at first year orientation, and also spend a few moments in some classes to explain what's happening in SBA. "Students might not be so dissatisfied if someone was willing to go to them." She also would like to establish regular office hours for students to get a hold of her in the SBA office, and wants to set up an SBA suggestion box. A student activities bulletin board protected by glass doors and maintained by the SBA Secretary would also help, she believes.

Also like Bullard, Argento is mostly concerned with the operation of the SBA as an effective student government. For example, earlier this spring, the SBA heard reports that some law school committees were not meeting. "The student committee members should report to the SBA about what is going on with their committees. And if they are not meeting, the SBA president should meet with the chairman and find out why." When asked whether she thought she could accomplish

something if a committee was chaired by a seasoned faculty member, she replied "I can be a real pest, and am not discouraged easily. I'm willing to put in as much time as is necessary."

Argento also believes that the faculty should be more involved in or at least informed about SBA and other student activities. She would like to send them an SBA newsletter and invite them to attend SBA meetings. She also envisions student/faculty forums where students could ask faculty members questions on either special or general issues in a structured environment. She cited the recent meeting on the academic honesty code with Schlegel as a good example.

When asked about the problem of late grades, she suggested that SBA might compile a public list of the worst offenders to help inform unsuspecting students. But it was pointed out that this just accommodated the problem rather than solved it. Students would choose professors based upon their grading speed rather than their academic qualifications. In fact, her idea might encourage procrastinating instructors since their students couldn't complain about lack of notice of grading practices. After considering these points, she agreed that the idea of publicizing late grading practices maybe wasn't such a good one after all.

## Biniszkiewicz

system required by Sub Board.

As a first year director, I've also had a chance to see how the SBA operates. Chairing the rules committee has given me a chance to help write changes to the present SBA constitution, and also to acquire some insight into how (and whether) the system can be changed. That brings me to the subject of what I would like to see changed.

In my opinion, the Finance Committee should be selected by the same process — and by the same committee — that determines who will serve on committees like Library, Dean Search, and FSRB. Current

practice is: that the Treasurer selects the committee members. There is potential for abuse in such a system, and it should be eliminated.

Another thing I would like to see changed is the present system of allocating monies for law school students to attend conferences. Currently, the Board of Directors usually approves \$75 per conference. The \$75 limit rule was initiated in the interests of fairness, but it results in something that falls far short of that goal. So far, all of the conference money requests have had merit, but under this system, one student traveling to Washington gets

\$75, three students attending a conference in California each get \$25, and 20 students traveling to Chicago collect a whopping \$3.75 apiece. Besides the economic unfairness of such a system, there is no relationship between money spent and benefit to the school. I would like to see a program set up whereby money would be allocated on a basis of number of students attending, and cost of the conference would be weighed against value to the school. One method of doing this would be to consider requests for conference funds together, instead of on a case-by-case basis as is presently done.

Probably one of the best ways to accomplish this would be to hold hearings before the Finance Committee once or twice a semester, and then have the committee's recommendations on conference funds presented to the SBA Board of Directors for final vote. It's true that it would be somewhat more complicated than the present system, but it seems to me that right now we're penalizing the programs that inspire the most interest.

The last issue I'd like to address is probably by far the most important: coordination

between the Treasurer and student organizations. The most consistent complaints I have heard are that vouchers aren't properly submitted and that money is too slow in coming. I have no magic solution, but I do know that something has to be done. I'm open to constructive suggestion, and if the solution would be to hold occasional meetings with organization representatives, or to attend an occasional organization meeting, I'm willing to try.

In short, I know it's a tough job, but I want it anyway. If elected, I'll do my best. Please give me your vote.

## Marcus

standard that a student should have yielded that decision back to the professor. The administration insists on the form of the act, while the students insist on the substance of their decision. When viewed from this perspective, even those who consciously and carefully transferred the exam questions between themselves may be regarded as occupying the far end of a continuum of a response to alienation.

Professor Berger barked about setting an example. Dean Schlegel meowed in agree-

ment. It is dangerous, it is always dangerous, to make an exception. But there is more than one example to set, more than one problem to solve. This is a school. If the deans want the students to learn, then the deans should teach. This phenomenon was, in a sense, a popular uprising, but it was also an aggregate of many personal decisions. If the deans and professors quarrel with the criteria relied upon in formulating those decisions, they should challenge them in a forthright, constructive and

thoughtful manner. I do not offer a perfect method for accomplishing this task. But granting amnesty and asking students to come in and talk is a way to stimulate thinking and both directly and indirectly disseminate to students new criteria for making future decisions. The very point of Professor Marcus' course in family law was to empower the student to question values and translate them into action.

Elan Gerstmann



SBA candidates (l to r): Jack Luzier, Brian Bornstein, Brett Gilbert, John Williams, Nancy Steiger, Todd Bullard, Vicky Argento, Susan Biniszkiewicz, Terry Gilbride.

## Gilbride

duties, however, involve a number of administrative functions; namely, working with the finance committee, handling budget proposals, and disbursing funds. To these ends I can only promise that I will meet

these demands to the best of my ability with fairness and efficiency. I would appreciate your support and urge everyone to make an informed choice.

\*\*\*\*\*

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# Text of Proposed SBA Constitutional Changes

## Proposed SBA Constitutional Changes:

(As mentioned elsewhere in this issue, the SBA is proposing that the following five changes be made to its constitution. Each of these amendments must be approved by a majority of the student body in a referendum to be held along with the election of officers.)

### Proposal #1: Revision of committee selection system:

This proposal completely reworks Article V of the Constitution. The proposed Article V reads:

**Section 1:** The Committees of the SBA shall be as provided for in the By-Laws.

**Section 2:** Except as provided for in the By-Laws, appointments to Law School and University committees will be made in the same manner and at the same time as appointments to committees of the SBA.

**Section 3:** Appointments Committee

1. The Appointments Committee will be chaired by the President of the SBA, and will include the Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and any other Directors who wish to participate.

2. As soon as practical after the Fall elections, the Appointments Committee will publicize available committee positions and interview prospective candidates in accordance with the By-Laws. Interviews shall take place no earlier than one week after committee positions have been publicized.

3. Recommendations of the Appointments Committee will be given to the Board of Directors at the first regular SBA meeting following the interviews. Approval of any recommendations will be made by a majority of the Board of Directors, present and voting.

**Section 4:** All committee appointees will serve from the time of their confirmation by the Board of Directors until their successors are duly confirmed, unless removed under the provisions of Section 5, below.

**Section 5:** Should the Board of Directors, for any reason, wish to terminate the ap-

pointment of any SBA member to any committee, it may do so by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

This proposal replaces the current Article V, which reads as follows:

**Section 1:** The Standing Committees of the Board shall be Admissions and Records, Appointments, Athletic and Social, Distinguished Visitor's Forum, External Affairs, Finance, Placement, Rules, and Advisement.

**Section 2:** Special Committees may be created by the President or the Board from time to time as it is deemed necessary, provided that the creation of such Committees and the specific mandate of such Committees, shall be made with the advice and consent of a majority of the Board, present and voting. The President shall make appointments to such committees with the advice and consent of a majority of the Board, present and voting; if the President refuses to do so, the Board may assume this duty for specific Committees by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of its members, present and voting. A Special Committee shall exist until disbanded by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board, present and voting.

**Section 3:** Appointments to Committees.

1. The SBA Appointments Committee shall be made up of only members of the Board.

2. No Standing or Special SBA Committee shall have less than five members.

3. Appointments of SBA Officers and Directors to Standing and Special SBA Committees shall be made by the President with the advice and consent of a majority of the Board, present and voting, providing that each committee has at least 2 members from the Board.

4. Appointments of SBA Officers and Directors to Law School and University Committees shall be made by the President with the advice and consent of a majority of the Board, present and voting, providing that each committee has at least one member from the Board.

5. The SBA Appointments Committee may, with the advice and consent of a majority of the Board, present and voting, appoint non-Board members to participate as full members of any Standing or Special SBA Committee (except Appointments) and of any Law School or

University Committee, under procedures set forth in the By-Laws.

**Section 4:** Term of Office of Appointees.

1. All Committee members must be appointed as soon as possible after elections each fall, and shall serve until their successors are duly appointed.

2. Notwithstanding Paragraph 1, if a vacancy occurs in the office of President, the terms of all appointees shall end one week after the newly elected President takes office. During that one week period, the President may reappoint, without the advice and consent of the Board, any appointee. All positions not reappointed shall be filled under the provisions of Section 3, above.

3. Notwithstanding any other provisions in this Constitution, the Board may, upon the motion of any member of the SBA, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting, terminate the appointment of any committee member, including that of an officer specifically designated to a committee under the language of this Constitution. Any vacancy occurring under this provision shall be filled under the provisions of Section 3, above.

4. If a vacancy occurs in any committee, the vacancy shall be filled under the provisions of Section 3, above.

**Proposal #2:** The current Constitution does not include a provision for amendment. The following proposal will be added as a new Article VI:

**Section 1:** Amendments to this Constitution will be proposed by the Board by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, and ratified by the membership of the SBA by a simple majority of the votes cast.

**Section 2:** Any referendum for the purpose of Constitutional change will take place on two consecutive school days, will be well-publicized prior to the vote, and will be conducted according to any additional rules set forth in the By-Laws.

**Proposal #3:** The current Constitution does not provide for the temporary replacement of officers. The proposal, which will revise and expand Article III, Section 5 and 6, reads as follows:

**Section 5:** Temporary Absence

and Permanent Vacancy in Elective Office:

1. Temporary absence: Officers or directors are temporary absent when they are temporarily unable to carry out the responsibilities of their position or when their position has been declared permanently vacant and no successor has been elected.

2. Substitution of a temporarily absent officer:

a) A temporary substitute may be appointed whenever an officer is temporarily absent or whenever an officer temporarily assumes another SBA office.

b) If the President is temporarily absent, the Vice President shall temporarily assume that office. If another officer is temporarily absent, the board may appoint a board member to serve as a temporary substitute.

c) A class director who is appointed a temporary substitute officer shall also continue to serve as a class director.

d) A temporary substitute officer shall serve until the permanent officer returns from a temporary absence or until a new officer is elected. A candidate elected in the regularly scheduled spring elections of officers shall immediately replace a temporary substitute officer.

e) No temporary substitute shall be appointed for class directors who are temporarily absent.

3) Permanent Vacancy:

a) The Board shall declare an elective office permanently vacant if the holder of the position resigns, is removed from office, or is temporarily absent for

more than four (4) consecutive class weeks or four (4) consecutive SBA meetings, which ever is less.

b) If a permanent vacancy occurs in the office of President, the Vice President shall assume that office for the remainder of the term. The office of Vice President shall then be declared permanently vacant.

c) If a permanent vacancy occurs in an elective office other than the office of President and there are more than seven class weeks before the next regularly scheduled election of executive board officers or, in the case of a vacancy in a class director position, seven weeks before the end of the semester, an election must be held to fill the term, such election to take place no later than eighteen (18) class days after the vacancy occurs. The election may be waived at the discretion of the SBA Board if no more than one candidate meets the requirements for a valid candidacy as determined by SBA.

**Section 6:** No member may hold more than one permanent position as a member of the Board of Directors at one time, and shall have only one vote.

The current Article III Section 5 and 6, which would be replaced by the above proposal, reads as follows:

1. If a vacancy occurs in an elective office and there are more than forty-eight (48) class days left in the term of office of the departed Board members, and election must be held to fill the term, such election to take place no later than eighteen (18) class days after the vacancy occurs. The election may be waived at the discretion of the SBA Board if no more than one candidate meets the re-

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The new Editorial Board looks forward to working with the Faculty, Staff, and Administration of the Buffalo Law School during the upcoming year.

## Text . . . continued from page 6

requirements for a valid candidacy as determined by SBA.

a) During the period between the resignation of the Board member and the installation of the newly elected Board member, the President may, if necessary, appoint an individual to fill the vacancy, with the advice and consent of a majority of the Board, present and voting.

2. If there are less than forty-eight (48) class days left in the term of office of the departed Board member, the President may appoint a successor to fill out the term, with the advice and consent of a majority of the Board, present and voting.

**Section 6:** No member may hold more than one position as a member of the Board of Directors at one time.

**Proposal #4:** Revision to powers of the Board of Directors: Article IV, Section 1, paragraph 3 currently reads as follows:

3. The Board shall additionally be empowered to make any and all By-Laws, give or withhold its advice and consent to such activities as this Constitution or any rules promulgated in pursuance thereof shall require, pursue disciplinary actions against officers and SBA members according to whatever procedures are provided in Article VII of this Constitution and the parliamentary authority herein adhered to, and generally exercise whatever powers may be granted to it by other Articles of this Constitution.

The proposal modifies the end of this paragraph to read as follows:

The Board shall additionally be empowered to . . . pursue disciplinary actions, including suspension or expulsion, against officers and SBA members according to whatever procedures are provided for in this Constitution, the SBA By-Laws, and Robert's Rules of Order . . .

**Proposal #5:** Modification of the powers of the President and Vice President: The proposal revises Article IV, Section 2 and 3 to read as follows:

**Section 2:** The duties of the President shall include, but not be limited to:

1) Preside over all meetings of the Board as per Robert's Rules of Order, this Constitution and the rules promulgated in pursuance thereof,

2) Be a member and chairman of the SBA Appointments Committee,

3) Be responsible for the execution of all resolutions passed by the Board.

**Section 3:** The duties of the Vice President shall include but not be limited to:

1) Assume the duties of the President in the President's absence,

2) Assist in the execution of the duties of the President

The current Article IV, Section 2 and 3 reads as follows:

**Section 2:** The duties of the President shall be to:

1. Preside over all meetings of the Board as per Robert's Rules of Order, this Constitution and the rules promulgated in pursuance thereof,

2. Serve as a member ex officio of all committees of the SBA and the law school,

3. Serve on the Budget and Program Review Committee,

4. Be a member and chairman of the SBA Appointments Committee,

5. Be responsible for the execution of all resolutions passed by the Board.

**Section 3:** The duties of the Vice President shall be to:

1. Assume the duties of the President in his absence,

2. Be a member and chairman of the External Affairs Committee.

## AVIATION LAW SEMINAR

Guest Speaker  
DONALD GARVET

Systems Director  
Pan American World Airlines  
on "Airline Survival in  
the Era of Deregulation"  
April 11, 1986 at 3:00 p.m.  
212 O'Brian Hall  
ALL ARE WELCOME

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# Law Revue Unorganized and Uneven, But Still a Good Time

by Susan Clerc

A sizable crowd gathered at the Trafamadore Cafe Sunday, March 23, to drink and talk, and ignore the 50th Annual Law Revue. The program, which included more music and less comedy than last year, doubled as a telethon to raise money to buy the law school a dean. In spite of a special appearance by Mr. Tax himself, Lou Del Cotto, to explain charitable contributions, Dean-Aide failed to raise a dime.

Dubbed by some "the show that would not end," the 1986 Law Revue suffered from a lack of organization as well as viewer apathy. Last minute rehearsal went on (and on) well after the room began to fill. No one knew when the Revue would start. Indeed, many in the audience failed to notice that it had started, so intent were most on discussing who's going with who, who's going where, and who's getting what interviews. When those present did pry themselves away from their

conversations it was for the benefit of the bartender. On-stage activities were a mere distraction.

As a consequence of the incessant droning from the tables, most musicians and singers were hard pressed to make themselves heard. Performers in the second half had also to contend with an uncooperative sound system. Due to either, or both, of these factors Paul Karp and his guitar, Forrest Strauss and his piano, Karen Vance and the 17th century, and Tim Howe and his pigeons were inaudible to anyone seated amid the Babel beyond the first ring of tables. The Hot Cargo String Band fared somewhat better, due solely to their numbers, but a fair evaluation of their performance is still impossible. No doubt those who heard the acts were pleased. The show-stealers were the last up, a group described in the program as a "very Hot Jazz/R&B Band that doesn't have a name." The four man band easily over-

shadowed the rest of the evening's performances and had people dancing in the aisles.

The meagre comedic offerings showcased the impressionistic talents of second-year students Jay Lippman, Brett Gilbert, and Dave Brown who appeared as Professors Albert, Steinfeld, and Spiegelman, respectively (if irreverently). CDO's own Audrey Koscielniak did an eerily accurate parody of herself in the same skit, a spoof of "A Christmas Carol." In other sketches, listeners were informed by newscasters Lippman and Dave Rychlik that Gourman ratings are based in part on availability of parking spaces and the speed with which grades are posted. The UB Law School Briefcase Drill Team ("The goofiest looking guys I've ever seen," according to one third-year student) performed an interpretive dance to "Wipe Out." There was surprisingly little topical humor. Imelda Marcos was seen in a pitch for Master Card, but that other



The Hot Cargo String Band jams away.



UB Law School Briefcase Drill Team: "goofy looking."

I.M. was mentioned only once; a shrouded Grim Reaper sought the nightmare of a Family Law victim . . . student.

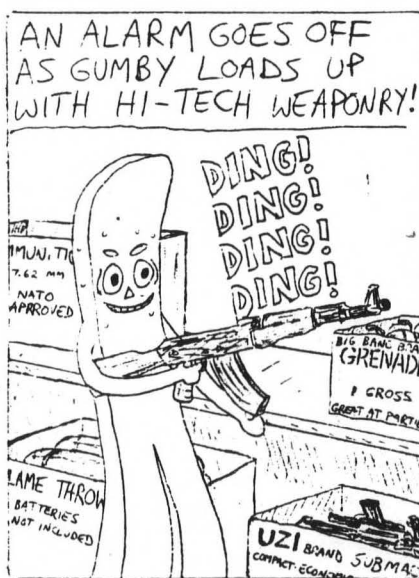
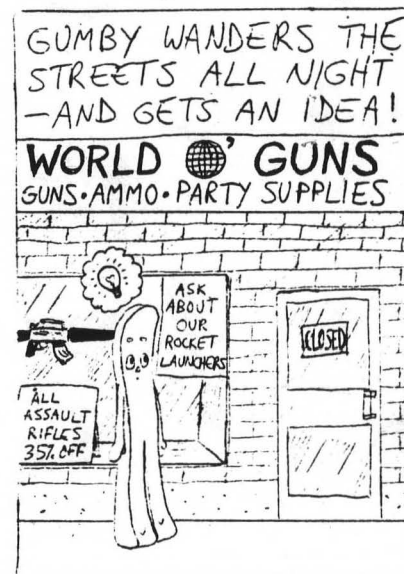
Although most performances were sound, audience concen-

sus was that this year's Law Revue wasn't nearly as good as last year's. But this judgment might be biased by the fact that they could hear last year's Law Revue.

## Comics

by Chapus

THE NEW ADVENTURES OF GUMBY.  
OUR STORY:  
GUMBY, HAVING ESCAPED FROM THE HOSPITAL AND PUNCHED ONE OF THE CITY'S LEADING LAWYERS, IS BEING PURSUED BY THE LAW...



### Public Interest Law Firms

A seminar on "Social Changes: The Role and Responsibility of Public Interest Law Firms" will be held at the Law School on:

SATURDAY, APRIL 12  
9 am to 1 pm — Room TBA

Speakers will be:

FRANK DEALE — Center for Constitutional Rights (NYC)  
JOHN GALEZIOWSKI (UB '80)  
Private Practice (Buffalo)  
JOHN STAINTHORPE (UB '79)  
People's Law Office (Chicago)

### MARIA PATRICIA FERNANDEZ-KELLY

Research Associate, Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies, University of California, San Diego

SPEAKING ON  
THE GLOBAL ASSEMBLY LINE: U.S. INDUSTRY IN MEXICO

Tuesday, April 15, 1986  
3:30 p.m.  
106 O'Brian Hall

### SALT OF THE EARTH

A semi-documentary re-creation of an actual year-long strike of Mexican-American zinc miners, it used mostly a non-professional cast except for the principals. The drama centers on the complex, changing relationship between one of the strikers (Juan Chacon) and his wife (Rosaura Revueltas).

Wednesday, April 9, 3:30 and 7:30 p.m.  
O'Brian 109, SUNY Buffalo  
AUSPICES NLG, GALA, GSA